

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 L-02 NSCE-00

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L:SSCHWEBEL

S/S - JMEALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJECT: CERDS

REF: STATE 271990

FOR THE SECRETARY

IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR REACTION TO PARA 1-A IN DEPTTEL
271990 ON HANDLING CERDS VOTE IN PLENARY, YOU SHOULD BE
AWARE OF FOLLOWING:

1. VOTE IN PLENARY WAS IN ANY EVENT OBLIGATORY UNDER
UNGA RULES. WHEN THERE HAS BEEN A SPLIT VOTE IN THE
COMMITTEE, THE ISSUE MUST BE VOTED ON AGAIN IN THE PLENARY
SESSION UNLESS ALL THOSE WHO VOTED AGAINST HAVE CHANGED
THEIR VOTES AND SO ADVISE THE GA PRESIDENT IN ADVANCE.
NORMALLY ON IMPORTANT ISSUES WHERE OPINIONS ARE DIVIDED, A
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REQUEST IS MADE TO HAVE THE VOTE RECORDED, AND THE REQUEST

IS FREQUENTLY FOR A ROLL-CALL VOTE MADE BY ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES MOST INTERESTED IN THE RESOLUTION. (TODAY, FOR EXAMPLE, MEXICO REQUESTED ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TO CALL FOR A ROLL-CALL VOTE. ON CERDS).

2. OUR INSTRUCTION WAS A TECHNICAL ONE INTENDED TO SHOW THAT IF A ROLL-CALL VOTE WERE NOT REQUESTED WE WOULD PREFER A "RECORD" VOTE SINCE THIS IS LESS OBTRUSIVE. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT IN A ROLL-CALL VOTE EACH DELEGATION IS POLLED INDIVIDUALLY, MUST CALL OUT ITS VOTE AND PRESS A VOTING BUTTON WHICH RECORDS ITS POSITION ON THE ELECTRONIC TABULATOR. A "RECORD" VOTE, ON THE OTHER HAND, MERELY INVOLVES ALL DELEGATIONS PRESSING THEIR VOTING BUTTON SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH RESULTS APPEARING IMMEDIATELY AND AUTOMATICALLY ON THE BOARD. IN SHORT LOWEST POSSIBLE POSTURE IN KIND OF VOTING SITUATION THAT WE COULD ANTICIPATE TODAY WOULD HAVE BEEN A "RECORD" VOTE RATHER THAN ROLL-CALL VOTE, AND THAT IS WHY WE INSTRUCTED THE DELEGATION TO JOIN IN OR REQUEST THIS METHOD RATHER THAN A ROLL-CALL VOTE BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE LEFT US IN A SLIGHTLY LOWER POSTURE.

3. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM EUROPEANS FOR US TO GIVE EXPLANATION OF VOTE IN PLENARY TODAY, WE REFUSED TO DO SO, AGAIN TO MAINTAIN LOWEST POSSIBLE POSTURE.

4. USUN IS SENDING YOU SEPARATE REPORT ON VOTING ATMOSPHERICS AND SPEECHES. INGERSOLL

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